

buffer means configured to buffer the received packet from the source node to the destination node until the cut-through connection becomes useable, the received packet being transmitted through the cut-through connection.

**REMARKS**

Applicants have canceled claims 1-22 and added new claims 23-26, so that claims 23-26 remain pending for examination. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of the pending claims.

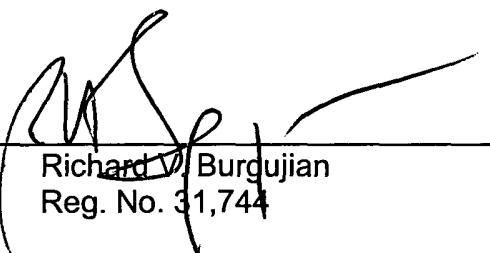
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: 7/9/03

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